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# Charlton FC duo face £3m payout for lies to lender

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Two businessmen who lied about being "in control" of Charlton Athletic may now have to pay more than £3 million in damages *Getty Images*

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**Two businessmen who lied about being “in control” of Charlton Athletic FC to secure an emergency loan for the cash-strapped football club may now have to pay more than £3 million in damages.**

Tony Jimenez and Kevin Cash lured their friend, Darius Khakshouri, into handing over £1.8 million to the club in 2013, as it was on the brink of being sold.

They claimed to be majority shareholders of the club, then in the Championship, and promised Mr Khakshouri a stake in a “lucrative” property deal once Charlton was under new ownership.

The High Court heard Mr Khakshouri was wooed by Mr Jimenez at meals and hotel meetings over three days in Los Angeles in September 2013, agreeing to the emergency loan without proper paperwork because he was friends with the two businessmen.

It was not until Charlton had been sold to Belgian millionaire Roland Duchatelet in January 2014 that he learnt that the property deal was not in place and neither Mr Jimenez nor Mr Cash actually had shares in the club.

The club had run out of money in late 2013, needing Mr Khakshouri’s loan to retain “skin in the game” over the property deal by staving off administration.

Mr Justice Green said Mr Khakshouri had been told “a deliberate lie” so he would agree to the loan deal, and both Mr Jimenez and Mr Cash were “liable in fraud”.

The judge dismissed Mr Jimenez and Mr Cash’s denials of wrongdoing, saying he was “sure” they had deceived their friend. “Mr Khakshouri was a property developer, not a lender,” he said.

“He would not have agreed to lend the money had it not been represented to him by two men he trusted that they, collectively, could guarantee that they controlled the club so that, in due course, they could ensure that the land deal was brought into effect.”

In previous evidence, Mr Khakshouri said he was initially apprehensive about the loan, but was convinced by the guarantee of the property deal on the Greenwich Peninsula.

The two men may now have to pay more than £3 million (\$4.2 million) in damages to Mr Khakshouri, as well as £350,000 in costs.

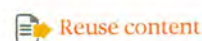
Jimenez and Cash applied for leave to appeal the ruling on seven grounds, including that the judge had made his decision based on issues that were not in the case.

Stephen Kenny QC, for Cash, argued the judge focused too heavily on the fact the two men were not shareholders in the club, when assessing any control they had at Charlton.

But Mr Justice Green rejected the arguments and refused leave to appeal.

It is still open to Cash and Jimenez to go directly to the Court of Appeal for a fresh challenge to the ruling.

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